IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for altering cellular responses to TGFβs and/or BMPs; the composition comprising a molecule which prevents, inhibits or reduces the association of a Smad protein with a UCH, or a nucleic acid construct directing the expression of such a molecule, in admixture with a physiologically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the composition prevents, inhibits or reduces the association of a Smad3 protein with a UCH.

3. (Currently Amended) A composition according to **claim 1** ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the composition prevents, inhibits or reduces the association of a Smad protein with UCH37.

4. (Currently Amended) A composition according to **claim 1** ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the composition comprises, as an active agent, a molecule which comprises a structural analogue of the UCH-binding site of a Smad protein.

5. (Currently Amended) A composition according to **claim 1** ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, wherein the composition comprises, as an active agent, a molecule which comprises a structural analogue of the Smad-binding site on a UCH protein.

6. (Currently Amended) A composition according to **claim 1** ~~any one of claims 1-4~~, wherein the active agent comprises a peptide of at least 8 amino acid residues which exhibits at least 60% identity, preferably at least 70%, more preferably at least 80%, and

most preferably at least 90% identity, with a contiguous portion of a Smad polypeptide; or a nucleic acid construct directing the expression of such a peptide.

7. (Original) A composition according to claim 6, wherein the peptide comprises at least 10 residues.

8. (Original) A composition according to claim 6, wherein the peptide comprises at least 12 amino acid residues.

9. (Original) A composition according to claim 6, wherein the peptide comprises at least 15 amino acid residues.

10. (Currently Amended) A composition according to **claim 6** ~~any one of claims 6-9~~, wherein the peptide comprises fewer than 80 amino acid residues.

11. (Original) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the peptide comprises fewer than 60 amino acid residues.

12. (Original) A composition according to claim 10, wherein the peptide comprises fewer than 40 amino acid residues.

13. (Currently Amended) A composition according to **claim 6** ~~any one of claims 6-12~~, wherein the peptide exhibits at least 60% sequence identity with a contiguous portion of Smad3.

14. (Currently Amended) A composition according to **claim 6** ~~any one of claims 6-13~~, wherein the peptide exhibits at least 60% identity with a contiguous portion of Smad3 present within amino acid residues 114-240 thereof.

15. (Original) Use of a substance which prevents, inhibits or reduces the association of a Smad protein with a UCH, in the preparation of a medicament to cellular responses to TGFβs and/or BMPs.

16. (Currently Amended) Use of a substance, in accordance with claim 15, in the preparation of a medicament in accordance with **claim 1** ~~any one of claims 1-14~~.

17. (Original) A method of altering cellular responses to TGFβs and/or BMPs, the method comprising the step of introducing into a cell a molecule which prevents, inhibits or reduces the association of a Smad protein with a UCH.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17, which comprises the step of administering a composition in accordance with **claim 1** ~~any one of caims 1-14~~.

19. (Original) A method of screening a test substance for the ability to prevent, inhibit or reduce the association of a Smad protein with a UCH, the method comprising the step of contacting the test substance with a Smad protein and/or a UCH and determining, qualitatively or quantitatively, the amount of association of the Smad protein with the UCH when these are contacted.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, wherein at least one of the test substance, Smad protein and UCH is labelled with a readily detectable label.